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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY [

SUBJECT

Highway Travel, Tbilisi to Gori/Railway Travel, Baku to Tbilisi, Kharkev to Odessa, Odessa to Kiev/New Construction/Route to Baku/Security

PLACE ACQUIREREStrictions in Baku (BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

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DATE (OF INFO.)

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- 1. Q. Describe any roads on which you had occasion to drive.
 - A. I drove from Trillisi to Gori, Stalin's home, a distance of about 60 miles. The road seemed to be black topped although because of pecked snow it was a little difficult to tell exactly. It is two lanes wide and there was very little auto traffic, little if any truck traffic, and quite a few ox carts. There were no large bridges en route.
- 2. Q. Describe the railroads on which you traveled.
 - A. Baku to Tbilisi: I am not certain but I believe that the route was double-tracked all the way. This is evidently a main line to transport oil from Baku. All engines on the line were steam powered. There were no tunnels and only one bridge over a river near Baku.

Kharkov to Odessa: This is a double-tracked road without any bridges along the way. I saw only steam engines.

Odessa to Kiev: This is also a double-tracked road. I saw what I thought was unusually heavy traffic from the direction of Kiev. It was mainly freight, and again I saw only steam engines.

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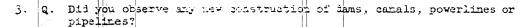
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- A. I didn't notice any of these specific things being built, but there was a great deal of building construction going on. They were even restoring some churches in Gori. The buildings under construction looked very flimsy to me. I've spent my last two summers working on construction gangs and their work didn't begin to compare with ours
- 4. Q. How did you go to Paku?
 - A. We flew from Moscow to Baki with a one and one half hour lay-over at Astrakhan.
- 5. Q: When you were in Baku. did you get an opportunity to get an overall view of the town?
 - A. Yes. I remember particularly being up on a high promontory overlooking the hartor. Our guide asked us not to take any pictures
 of the harbor, but we did anyway, and they didn't say anything.
 This was true wherever we went. They'd ask us not to do something,
 we'd go ahead and do it anyway, and they didn't seem to care. They
 were following orders but didn't worry about whether they were carried
 out as long as they could say that they'd tried. Once, one of our
 guides asked us not to take any pictures until he checked to see if
 there were any naval vessels in sight. When he gave us the signal
 to go ahead, I looked through my view finder and there was a Soviet
 destroyer in the way. I said, 'Hey what about that one?' He looked
 again and said, 'Well, mayoe you'd better not take any pictures.
 I missed that one

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